CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for developing voice tag "sounds like" pairs for a voice tagging lexicon, comprising:

a voice tag editor receptive of alphanumeric characters indicative of a voice tag, the voice tag editor configured to display and edit the alphanumeric characters;

a text parser connected to the editor and operable to generate normalized text corresponding to the alphanumeric characters, such that the normalized text serves as recognition text for the voice tag and is displayed by the voice tag editor; and

a storage mechanism connected to the editor and operable to update a lexicon with the displayed alphanumeric characters and the corresponding normalized text, thereby developing a desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the alphanumeric characters indicative of a voice tag are typed in via a keyboard connected to the voice tag editor.

3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is connected to the lexicon and further configured to display a list of voice tags residing in the lexicon.

4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the normalized text residing in the lexicon is used by a speech recognizer in a voice tagging system.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is further configured to display a description associated with the lexicon, wherein the description is a summary of contents of the lexicon.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to import the lexicon from an external data source.

7.   The system of claim 6 wherein the external data source receives a request from the voice tag editor.

8.   The system of claim 7 wherein the external data source is configured to provide a list of available lexicons to the voice tag editor according to the request.

9.   The system of claim 7 wherein the request includes content requirements for a lexicon.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to modify existing voice tag "sounds like" pairs stored on the lexicon.

11. The system of claim 4 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to modify a phonetic transcription used by the speech recognizer.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the text parser prompts a user of the voice tagging system if the text parser is not able to generate the normalized text.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to perform a speech recognition test of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to modify the desired voice-tag "sounds like" pair if the speech recognition test is not successful.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the voice tag editor generates a list of n-best recognition results in response to the speech recognition test.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the list includes at least one of a confidence measure and a likelihood measure for the recognition results.

17.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is configured to upload the lexicon to a remote location.

18.   The system of claim 17 wherein the uploaded lexicon includes a description of content of the uploaded lexicon.

19.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is operable to identify at least one other voice tag "sounds like" pair having recognition text that is confusingly similar to the recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

20.   The system of claim 19 wherein identifying the at least one other voice tag "sounds like" pair includes calculating a measure distance between phonetic transcriptions associated with each recognition text, where the measure distance is indicative of similarity between the phonetic transcriptions.

21.   The system of claim 20 wherein the measure distance is based on a number of edit operations needed to make the phonetic transcriptions identical.

22.   The system of claim 19 wherein the voice tag editor is further operable to provide alternative recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

23.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is operable to detect an unbalanced phrase length of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

24.   The system of claim 23 wherein the voice tag editor is further operable to provide alternative recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

25.   The system of claim 1 wherein the voice tag editor is operable to detect a hard-to-pronounce desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

26.   The system of claim 25 wherein the voice tag editor is further operable to provide alternative recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

27.   A method for modifying a voice-tagging lexicon comprising:

receiving alphanumeric characters indicative of a voice tag;

generating normalized text corresponding to the alphanumeric characters and displaying the normalized text, such that the normalized text serves as recognition text for the voice tag; and

updating the voice-tagging lexicon with the alphanumeric characters and the corresponding normalized text, thereby developing a desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

28.   The method of claim 27 wherein the step of receiving comprises displaying a list of voice tags residing in the lexicon and selecting a voice tag from the list.

29.   The method of claim 27 further comprising disambiguating the recognition text.

30.   The method of claim 27 further comprising receiving speech input and matching the speech input to the voice tag "sounds like" pair according to the normalized text.

31.   The method of claim 27 further comprising displaying a description associated with the lexicon, wherein the description is a summary of contents of the lexicon.

32. The method of claim 27 further comprising importing the lexicon from an external data source.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising providing a list of available lexicons according to a request.

34. The method of claim 27 further comprising modifying existing voice tag "sounds like" pairs that are stored on the lexicon.

35. The method of claim 30 further comprising modifying a phonetic transcription set associated with the speech input.

36. The method of claim 27 further comprising prompting a user of the voice tagging system if the text parser is not able to generate the normalized text.

37. The method of claim 27 further comprising performing a speech recognition test of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising modifying the desired voice-tag "sounds like" pair if the speech recognition test is not successful.

39. The method of claim 37 further comprising modifying a phonetic transcription set used by the speech recognition test it the speech recognition test is not successful.

40. The method of claim 37 further comprising generating a list of n-best recognition results in response to the speech recognition test.

41. The method of claim 27 further comprising uploading the lexicon to a remote location.

42. The method of claim 29 wherein disambiguating includes identifying at least one other voice tag "sounds like" pair having recognition text that is confusingly similar to the recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.

43. The system of claim 42 wherein identifying the at least one other voice tag "sounds like" pair includes calculating a measure distance between phonetic transcriptions associated with each recognition text, where the measure distance is indicative of similarity between the phonetic transcriptions.

44. The method of claim 29 wherein disambiguating includes determining if a phonetic transcription associated with the recognition text has an unbalanced phrase length.

45. The method of claim 29 wherein disambiguating includes determining if a phonetic transcription associated with the recognition text is a hard-to-pronounce phrase.

46. The method of claim 29 further comprising providing alternative recognition text of the desired voice tag "sounds like" pair.